

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

1. (Currently amended) A process for surface treatment of mineral materials including a least the following steps
  - a) ~~Effect of~~ Applying laser radiation onto the surface and
  - b) ~~Application of~~ Applying an organo-silicide composition onto the surface, with the above-mentioned steps (a) and (b) being part of ~~an~~ a treatment process essentially limited in time and which occur prior to further processing and/or use of said mineral materials.
2. (Currently amended) A process according to claim 1, characterized in that by means of the effect of laser radiation laser induced surface indentations are created with an average diameter of 5 to 900  $\mu\text{m}$ , ~~particularly preferred between 10 to 150  $\mu\text{m}$ .~~
3. (Currently amended) A process according to one of the preceding claims, characterized in that by the effect of laser radiation laser induced indentations are created with an average depth between 10 to 400  $\mu\text{m}$ , ~~particularly preferred between 20 and 200  $\mu\text{m}$ .~~
4. (Original) A process according to one of the preceding claims, characterized in that by the effect of laser radiation at least 2.5 million surface indentations per  $\text{m}^2$  are created.
5. (Currently Amended) A process according to one of the preceding claims, characterized in that as an organo-silicide composition alkylsilanole, alkylalkoxysilane, alkoxysilane, oligo and polysiloxane and/or silicone is applied,

sometimes having one or several of the following functional groups: hydroxy, halogen, in particular, chlorine, amino, carboxy, cyano, ~~methacryloxy~~ methacryloxy, epoxy, mercapto, or vinyl.

6. (Original) A process according to one of the preceding claims, characterized in that the organo-silicide composition is applied in the form of an aqueous dispersion.
7. (Currently amended) A process according to one of the preceding claims, characterized in that the organo-silicide composition is applied in the form of an aqueous dispersion containing a ~~dispersing supporting~~ dispersing agent.
8. (Currently amended) A process according to one of the preceding claims, characterized in that the organo-silicide composition is applied in the form of an aqueous dispersion together with a ~~fluor-polymer~~ fluoropolymer.
9. (Original) A process according to one of the preceding claims, characterized in that subsequently to the application of the organo-silicide composition a surface treatment is performed by means of thermal energy, UV- or IR- radiation, microwaves and/or lasers.
10. (Original) A mineral material produced according to a process of claims 1 through 9, characterized in that it is provided with
  - A) laser induced surface indentations, a laser induced surface removal and/or a laser induced smoothing of the surface and
  - B) an organo-silicide composition onto the surface and/or in the pore space of the mineral material near to the surface.
11. (Currently amended) A mineral material according to claim 10, characterized in that the laser induced surface indentations are provided with an average depth of 10 to 400  $\mu\text{m}$ , ~~particularly preferred between 20 to 200  $\mu\text{m}$ .~~

12. (Currently amended) A mineral material according to claim 10 or 11,  
characterized in that the laser induced surface indentations are provided with an  
average diameter between 5 and 900  $\mu\text{m}$ , ~~particularly preferred between 10 and~~  
~~150  $\mu\text{m}$ .~~
13. (Original) A mineral material according to claims 10 though 12, characterized in  
that the surface is provided with at least 2.5 million laser induced surface  
indentations per  $\text{m}^2$ .
14. (New) A process according to claim 2, characterized in that by means of the effect  
of laser radiation laser induced surface indentations are created with an average  
diameter between 10 to 150  $\mu\text{m}$ .
15. (New) A process according to claim 3, characterized in that by the effect of laser  
radiation laser induced indentations are created with an average depth between 20  
to 200  $\mu\text{m}$ .
16. (New) A mineral material according to claim 11, characterized in that the laser  
induced surface indentations are provided with an average depth between 20 to  
200  $\mu\text{m}$ .
17. (New) A mineral material according to claim 12, characterized in that the laser  
induced surface indentations are provided with an average diameter between 10 to  
150  $\mu\text{m}$ .